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PCT/GB 2005/000075



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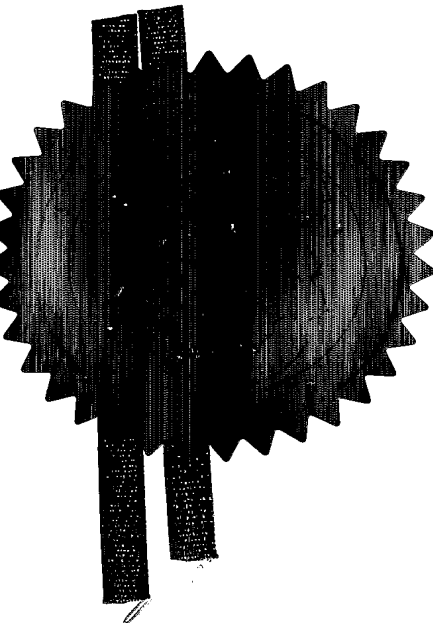
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Dated

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POL/7700 0.00-0410933.6 NONE**Request for grant of a patent**

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P2574/2/GB

2. Patent application number

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0410933.6

17 MAY 2004

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)Tabletalk Media Limited  
4th Floor, 17c Curzon Street  
Mayfair,  
London W1Y 7FEPatents ADP number (*if you know it*)

884 335 1001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

Improvements in or relating to table coverings

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)CASTLES  
1 King Street  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire DE45 1DZ (GB)Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

733 65 22002

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Country

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7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing  
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  - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
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I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

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Date

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G.J. BUCKLEY 01629 813505

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Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings.

This invention relates to table coverings, and in particular to such coverings which are particularly suitable for use in a commercial eating and/or drinking establishments such as restaurants or cafés.

In such establishments it is well known to locate promotional material on the tables. This may be in the form of beer mats or it may be printed on place mats of paper or plastic. Inherently promotional material provided in this way is removable, and limited in scope.

An object of the present invention is to provide a table covering which may be used to convert the table top into a promotional medium by providing a display on a chosen part of the table top, is not readily removed or damaged by customers, and yet may be replaced after a specified length of time.

Thus according to the present invention a table covering for application to a table top to provide a display on a part only of the said table top comprises four layers,

- i) a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a table top,
- ii) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the table top
- iii) a carrier layer of clear polymer film having a thickness of not more than 100 microns
- iv) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer

When the table covering of the present invention is applied to a table top the the layer (i) of release paper is removed from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top. When necessary any air bubbles which are trapped beneath the table covering may be forced out using a suitable roller or squeegee.

The table covering of the invention may made to cover substantially the whole of the table top, but the display layer will be substantially less in area than the table, the positioning of the display layer in relation to the table top being chosen to suit the particular circumstances of the case. If desired the table covering may be of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied, but preferably the shape and size of each table covering in accordance with the invention is such as to avoid the table covering having to be folded or pleated when it is applied to the table.

If desired the table covering may be of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a table top.

The printed display layer of the covering may extend over substantially the whole area of the table covering if the latter is to cover only a part of the table top. On the other hand the display layer may be located on only a minor

- 2 -

-proportion of the table covering. The printed display may consist of decorative and/or advertising material.

It is a feature of the invention that the nature of the table covering is not to be readily visible to the customer using the table and hence the carrier layer of polymer film and the semi-permanent adhesive layer beneath are to be totally clear, the appearance of the covering thus being in the nature of a finish on the table top. For this reason the thickness of the film is important, the preferred thickness of the clear film being in the range, 10 to 100 microns, more preferably 15 to 70 microns. The polymer used for the film is preferably flexible thermoplastic polyester such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET)

In use the table covering of the invention is to be replaced at regular intervals of, for example, one month. Hence the role of the semi-permanent adhesive is to grip the table top securely whilst the table covering is in use, and yet allow complete removal and replacement of the table covering at the end of the desired period. The preferred adhesives are water clear, solvent based acrylic adhesives.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the table covering includes a second layer of polymer film which is to protect the printed layer and is glued over the printed display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive. The second layer of polymer film is to be of material approved for food contact applications. The glue by which it is applied is preferably an adhesive which is approved for indirect food contact applications. The preferred materials are clear oriented polypropylene (OPP) film for the protective polymer layer, and clear EVA adhesive for the glue.

Preferably the second layer of polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns

The method used to apply the table covering is simple, but care must be taken to make sure that the surface to which the covering is applied is clean and smooth and free of protuberances such as could be caused by blemishes, or solid particles (such as salt) on the surface.

Since the carrier layer of polymer film is itself thin, and some precision is required in applying the table covering to the table top, in a further embodiment of the invention an additional layer of release paper is provided on the top surface of the table covering, ie on the surface opposite to that of the substrate layer (i). The second layer of release paper is provided to make handling of the table covering easier. Depending upon the nature of the carrier layer of the table covering, it may be removed before or after application of the table covering to a table top has been carried out. In general, the thinner the carrier layer the more likely it is that the second layer of release paper will be retained on the table covering until after the table covering has been applied to a table top.

- 3 -

The invention will now be described in more detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a sketch showing a magnified cross section of a part of a table covering according to the invention

Figure 2 is a sketch showing a plan view of a rectangular table covering in accordance with the invention

Figure 3 is a sketch showing a plan view of a circular table covering in accordance with the invention on a table top.

The table covering shown in figure 1 consists of a substrate 1 of release paper, a layer of semi-permanent adhesive 2 on a carrier layer of polymer 3 bearing a printed display layer 4, and, glued over the printed layer 4 by means of a second layer of adhesive 5, a second layer of polymer film 6.

The semi-permanent adhesive of layer 2 is a solvent based water clear acrylic adhesive and layer 2 has a thickness of approximately 25 microns.

The carrier layer 3 is made from a commercially available clear PET film having a thickness of 38 microns, printed on which is the printed layer 4.

The printed display layer 4 is protected by the second layer of polymer 6 which is made from clear oriented polypropylene film having a thickness of approximately 8 microns. The adhesive layer 5, by means of which the second polymer layer is attached, is made from a clear EVA adhesive.

Figure 2 shows in plan from above, a rectangular table 7 bearing a table covering 8 extending only over the central "spine" of the table top. In this embodiment the carrier layer of clear PET film may wrap over the ends of the table top (not shown) and carries a printed layer which extends over the whole area of the carrier layer which is on the top surface of the table.

Figure 3 is a plan view showing a circular table covering 9 in position on a circular table top 10. The table covering is also circular and its size is such that the edge 11 of the carrier layer of clear polymer film is 10mm from the edge of the table top.

The printed area of the table covering is a small area 12 in the centre of the table covering



Claims

1. A table covering for application to a table top to provide a display on a part only of said table top, said covering comprising four layers,
  - i) a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a table top,
  - ii) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the table top
  - iii) a carrier layer of clear polymer film having a thickness of not more than 100 microns
  - iv) a display layer which is printed on the polymer film
2. A table covering according to claim 1 in which the table covering is made to cover substantially the whole of the table top, but the display layer is substantially less in area than the carrier layer.
3. A table covering according to claim 1 which is of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a table top
- 4 A table covering substantially as described herein in relation to any of the accompanying drawings.

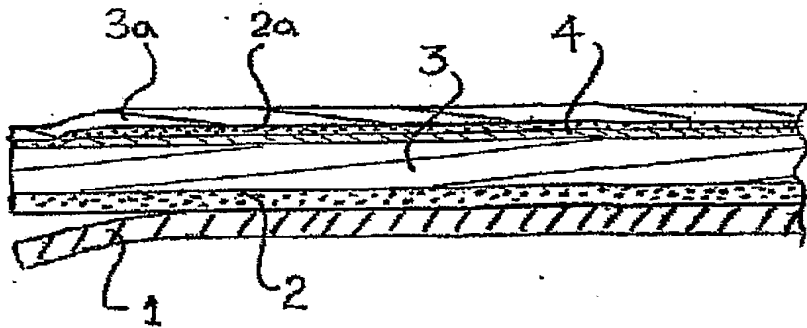


FIG 1

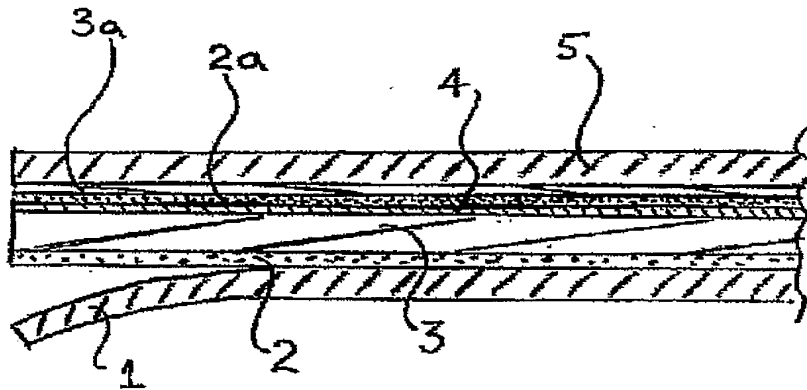


FIG 2

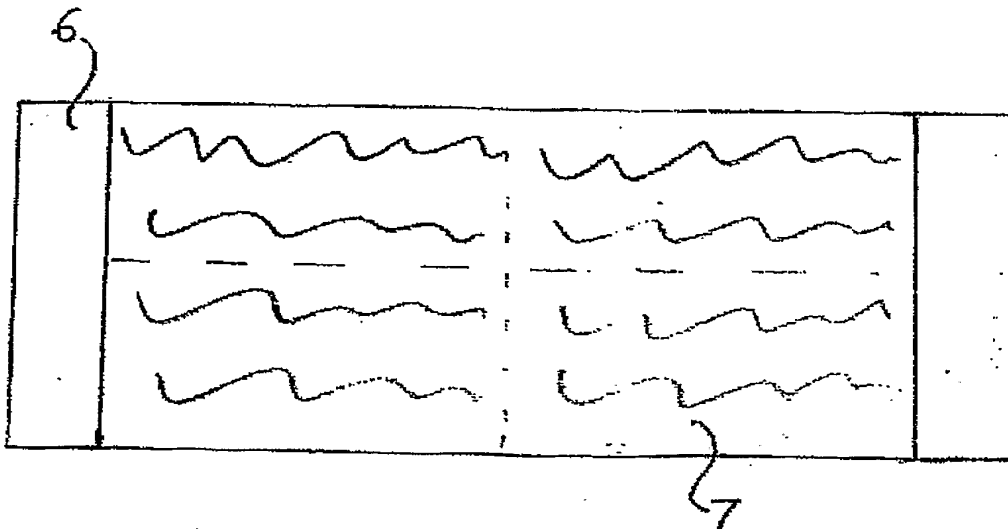


FIG 3



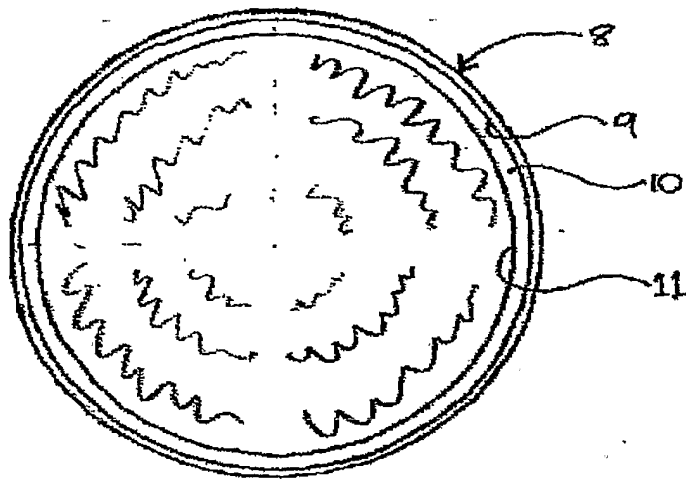


FIG 4.

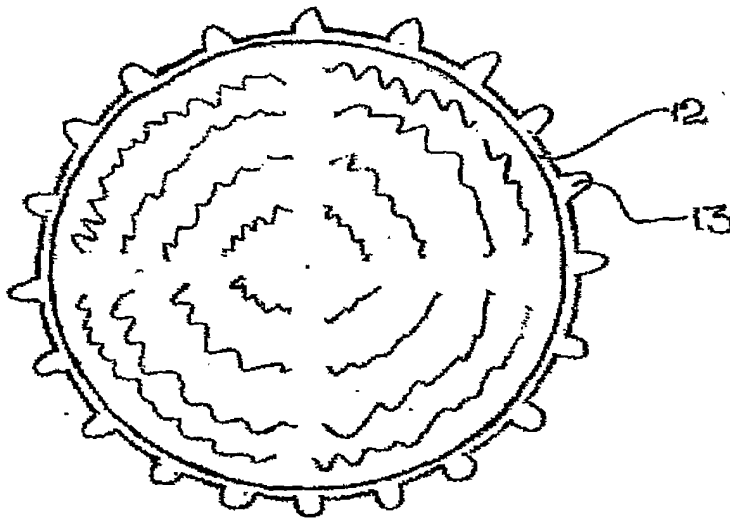


FIG 5

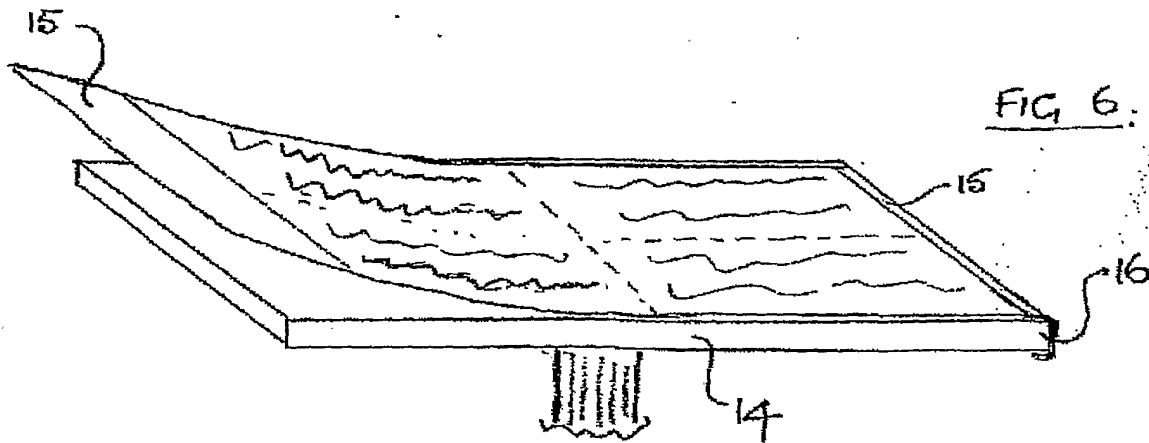
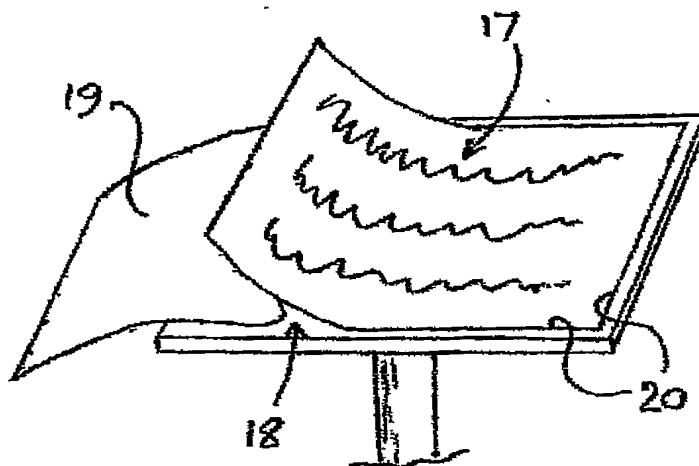


FIG 6.



FIG 7



2 2  
4 4 4 4

